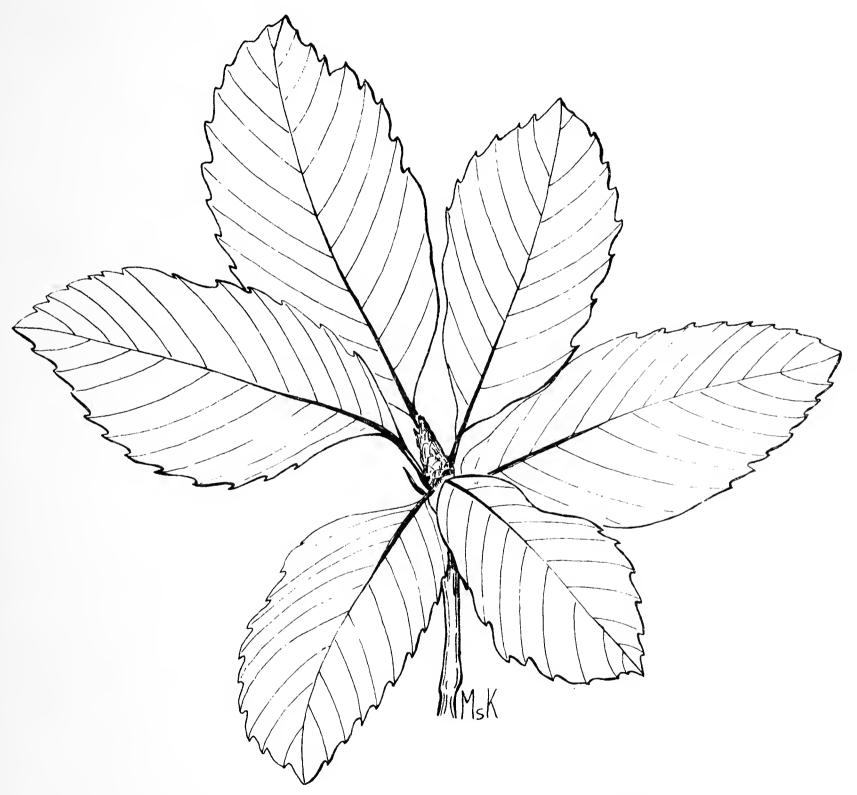
# Horticulture Northwest

Journal of the Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society



Quercus sadleriana

Horticulture Northwest is published quarterly by the Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society. Yearly membership dues start at \$7.50. Address communications regarding membership to:

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# Horticulture Northwest

Volume 5

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Fall 1978

Sallie D. Allen, Editor

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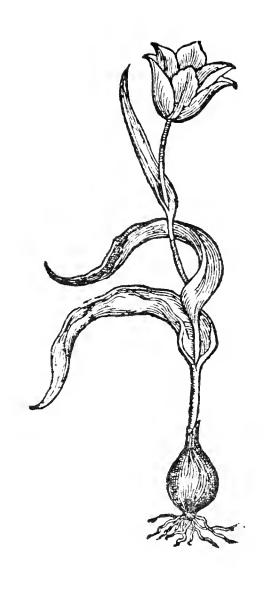
# Uses Of Plants From Long Ago

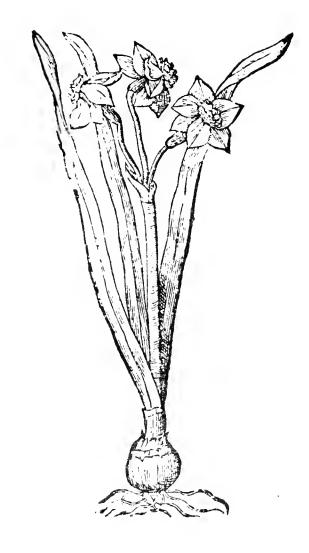
Brian Halliwell Royal Botanic Gardens Kew Richmond, Surrey, England

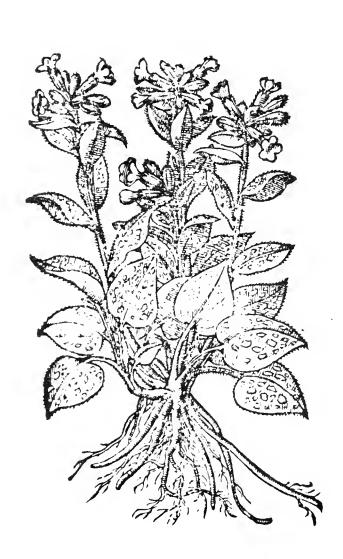
Three hundred years ago, those plants grown in a garden had to be useful and whilst they might be used in decoration of the house, in garlands and posies this was a secondary use. Although the majority would be used for food or in its preparation, an important use was in medicine when all remedies were herbal. Whilst there were apothecaries in towns and cities and often villages had their wise men or women who dispensed healing potions, every country housewife had to be her own and her family's doctor. garden she would grow plants to supplement the healing herbs gathered from the countryside. Almost all plants grown in gardens as well as those from nature had some curative properties. Some of the older common names and those still in use by country folk are an indication as to the cures effected, pilewort, feverfew, scurvey weed, goutweed and lungwort. Fantasy and mysticism played a part as well as the phase of the moon when harvested, person (virgins) gathering and places (graveyards) where grown affected the potency of the herbs. Even garden weeds were considered to have beneficial properties, dandelion was used to cure yellow jaundice, shepherd's purse stopped bleeding, whilst groundsel boiled in wine and water "healeth the ache and pain of the stomach" as one old garden book said.

From old herbals of the 17th century are taken cures for which garden plants grown today for decoration were then used.

Amongst the harbingers of spring are crocus and yet those of the spring were lumped with fall flowering kinds when their virtues were considered. Too much caused headaches and prevented sleep but in moderation "quickeneth the senses, maketh men merry and helpeth where there be difficulty in breathing". "It is also a special remedy for those that hath consumption of the lungs and are as we term it, at death's door and almost past breathing, that it bringeth breath again and prolongeth life for certain days if ten or twenty grains at the most are given in sweet wine." Soon after crocus, or flowering at the same time, are daffodils. Their roots were considered to have wonderful properties of gluing together wounds, gashes and cuts of veins, tendons and sinews. The juice of daffodils made into a lotion removed spots from the face and took the fire out of sunburn and also helped wrenched ankles and eased pains in joints. Tulips which were the most popular of spring flowers were recommended for candying for sweetmeats. An oil made from wallflower seeds was used to massage the limbs of paralytics and those affected with gout. Roses today must be the most widely planted of all for summer display. These are hybrid teas and floribundas but three hundred years ago it would have been the wild roses and those which today we would call shrub roses. Whilst their beautiful flowers were appreciated these had many other uses, perfumes were extracted from the flowers, petals were dried for potpourri or used fresh in toilet preparations. Dyes produced by steeping coloured petals in water were used for colouring foods and fresh petals were added to salads. Buds were carefully candied so as to









retain shape and colour and were used for decoration or garnishing. Boiled with sugar, petals were made into syrups, cordials, conserves and sweetmeats. Medicinally, oil of roses strengthened the heart, liver, kidneys and weak entrails. It was used also to cleanse wounds and to remove ulcers and flowers laid on open wounds staunched bleeding. At this period shrubs were not widely grown in gardens although evergreens and those with fragrant foliage were much prized. Fragrant leaves of the bay tree Laurus nobilis were used for flavoring of food but these and the berries of the bay tree provided a cure for a number of ailments. Berries in wine were good against the biting and stinging of venomous beasts and against poisons in general, providing a remedy for pain in the ears and deafness. When mixed with treacle "refresheth such people as are sluggish and dull by means of taking opiate medicines". Of many other cures are, infirmities of chest and lungs, diseases of stomach, liver and spleen; to warm a cold stomach and ease pain of migraine when rubbed on the temple. "The common drunkards were accustomed to eat in the morning, fasting, two leaves thereof against drunkenness." Whilst this can be a cure on the morning after, a rather drastic way for preventing drunkenness was to eat a seed or berry of mezereon or common "He cannot be allured to drink and drink that time such will be the heat of his mouth and his choking of his throat." The bark of two trees provided cures, that of the abele or white poplar made into an embrocation was effective when rubbed into joints afflicted with sciatica whilst that of the plane tree when boiled in vinegar provided a cure for toothache and if boiled in wine a remedy for running and watering eyes.

Flowers of the madonna lily were used by ladies to whiten the face whilst juice extracted from roots induced hair to grow again on parts of the body that had been burnt or scalded. "The conserve of floures of Clove Gillofloures (carnations) and sugar is exceedingly cordial and wonderfully above measure doth comforteth the heart. It prevaileth against hot pestilential fever, expelleth poison and fury of the disease and greatly comforteth the sick." The common white water lily was considered good against "venery or fleshly desire for it drieth up the seed of generation and causeth man to be chaste". In complete contrast is this about the annual sunflower. "The buds before they be floured, boiled and eaten with butter, vinegar and pepper after the manner of artichokes are exceedingly pleasant meat surpassing the artichoke far in procuring bodily lust." The artichoke in the previous sentence was the globe; about the Jerusalem artichoke is written "Which way soever they be dressed and eaten, they stir and cause filthy, loathsome stinking winds within the body thereby causing the belly to be pained and tormented." To finish is the most astonishing of all about one of the buttercups. "That if it be hanged in a linnen cloth about the neck of him that is a lunatic in the wain of the moon, then he shall be cured."

Amusing as many of these remedies may seem in the twentieth century, they are nonetheless just as effective today even though their places have been taken by antibiotics and modern pharmaceutical preparations.

It seemed fitting to illustrate Mr. Halliwell's interesting article with reproductions of floral woodcuts from the Renaissance Herbal of Carolus Clusius (1576). They are published in <u>Plant and Floral Woodcuts for Designers & Craftsmen</u>, 1974 by Dover Publications, Inc.

## Fall for the Natives

Jean Witt, Seattle, Washington

Pacific Coast native irises apparently acquired their reputation for being difficult to move, divide, or ship because Iris growers of former years failed to understand the crucial matter of timing - all species, regardless of type or origin, were equated with the indestructible bearded types and shipped bare-root in mid-summer. For the Pacific Coast natives - *Ii. douglas-iana, innominata, tenax* and their relatives in western Oregon and northern California - with their small, slender rhizomes and summer dormancy, uprooting in July and August is a disaster. By mid-summer the white feeder roots of the previous winter and spring have dried down to a dead wirey state and plants disturbed at this season are ill equipped for survival in even moderate heat and drought.

However, new white feeder roots emerge soon after our first fall rains, and by mid-September the roots will be two or three inches long. So the preferred dividing and shipping time has come to be from about the middle of September through the middle of October; and largely at the insistance of species Iris buffs in the Northwest all reputable dealers in natives now ship damp-packed. Before digging or dividing clumps in your own garden, check for the presence of live roots at the base of the outer fans of leaves, as their emergence varies with the amount and timing of rains. (They appeared by mid-August this year because of the extra summer rains - a full month early.)

Moving plants after about October 20th becomes risky - you can get away with it if a mild winter follows, but a spate of below-freezing weather in January without snow cover can cause extensive losses.

Breaking the old clumps into a few large chunks with several fans of leaves each is a satisfactory procedure. Dividing down to single rhizomes, especially in the smaller species, delays their reestablishing. Dead leaves and old rhizomes from the center of the clump should be discarded — roots must not dry out: cover them with damp earth if replanting is postponed. Clipping back the long evergreen leaves is not necessary in fall transplanting; it spoils the plants' appearance for many months, since new leaves do not develop until the following spring. Usually the normal October-November rainfall is sufficient for newly transplanted native irises. Provide a little extra water if rains are scant, but do not overwater.

Pacific Coast native irises do well in slightly acid, well-drained soil, enriched with compost and a little all-purpose fertilizer. Steer manure should be used sparingly lest it cause rot. Bark mulch over the beds deters slugs which ignore the tough foliage in favor of the delicate flowers, and keeps down weeds. Avoid cultivating close to the crowns of the plants because it is important not to damage the tender feeder-roots. The plants will be larger and more vigorous if grown in full sun but they will tolerate considerable shade.

Many colors and forms of Pacific Coast natives are in commerce in Washington, Oregon, and California. Originally most of the named varieties were collected plants. Many fine cultivars are now being raised in Southern California - whether they will be able to survive Seattle's worst winters remain to be seen. (If you are trying any of these, we would love to hear what luck

# Pilot Project

Ken Gardner, Firland Correctional Center, Seattle

Three years ago, a pilot project under the penal system was born in the Fircrest compound of the Shoreline community in Seattle. Firland, unlike other institutions, is a small facility with a maximum capacity of fifty residents and eighteen staff members.

Since the opening of Firland, it appears to have become the most unique institution in the State of Washington. The philosophy here is to treat residents with dignity and respect. Residents have come to believe that honesty, and the self respect that comes with it, is a more positive way to live with others, than the constant games and manipulations that are typical of many prison environments.

Residents who come to Firland must meet the programs' criteria. Persons can have no history of long use of opiates, mental illness, violence or crimes against another person and no history of escape; however, he may need some vocational training. Firland offers academic and vocational training. This provides a skill, one that can help the resident to live a more productive life.

Also offered are: a Horticulture Program, Pivot and Prison Industries, which specializes in making furniture, a G.E.D program (equivalent to a high school diploma) and correspondence courses through local colleges.

The horticultural program is split into four unique sections. One is the Floral Design Shop where four residents put their talents into the artwork of arranging center pieces, wall hangings or plaques, and ornamental settings. Also this group handles decorations for weddings and funerals.

The second is the greenhouse where many varieties of house plants, annuals for summer color and vegetables for the garden are propagated. This section is operated by seven residents who learn the methods of greenhouse operation and control. The learning about propagation and other greenhouse skills can be utilized to obtain employment when they are released into the community.

The third section is our landscaping crew. These men are learning the skills required for beautification of yards, parks and all types of groundwork. This includes many responsibilities such as equipment operation and safety and many areas of year around ground maintenance. The fourth section is a project designer for the landscaping crew. The project designer consists of one resident at the present who is working on a design for the Northwest Headquarters for the Department of Natural Resources in Sedro Woolley, Wash. When the design is completed and approved, our landscaping crew will call to complete the project there.

This is just a brief insight into our training and work in the field of horticulture at Firland Correctional Center. With positive progress and public support this program will grow and the possibility of more of these programs opening around the State will be enhanced.



Stewartia rostrata

Illustration: Mareen S. Kruckeberg

Specimen from the garden of Brian and Margaret Mulligan Kirkland, Washington 7/31/78

### A New Stewartia

Margaret Mulligan Kirkland, Washington

For fifteen years we have had in our garden in Kirkland a tree acquired as Stewartia pseudocamellia, but which now proves to be S. rostrata, a new and rare species described by Dr. Stephen Spongberg in April 1974 from specimens discovered in various herbaria as well as living plants at the Arnold Arobretum and elsewhere.

Seeds were originally sent there from China in 1936 and plants raised and distributed to at least two other arboreta in the eastern U.S.A. Stewartia rostrata is closely related to both S. serrata and S. sinensis but can be distinguished from both by (1) the non-exfoliating (peeling) bark on the trunk and branches; (2) the presence of a ring of silky hairs around the base of the otherwise glabrous ovary, (3) which has four seeds (or ovules) in each division instead of the usual two, and (4) the persistent subglobose capsules with the remains of the styles projecting at the top, from which it was given the name "rostrata", meaning "beaked". These remain on the tree all winter and are quite conspicuous. The leaves are 2-3 inches long,  $l_2^1$ -1-5/8 inches wide, widest at or above the middle and undulating along the finely toothed margin, acute or abruptly acuminate at the apex, tapering at the base to a short winged stalk. It flowers profusely in June and in October the leaves turn a bright orange-red.

Our plant is apparently the first record from any garden on the West Coast. Unfortunately we have no data as to the source of our plant, but it may have been obtained from a local nursery or one of the Arboretum plant sales. Very likely there are other examples growing unrecognized in Puget Sound gardens, which we and Dr. Spongberg would like to discover. It is hoped that this new species will soon be propagated and distributed more widely.

#### NOHS SEED EXCHANGE

We are happy to report that we are getting enthusiastic response to our upcoming seed exchange, including inquiries from non-members, one from as far away as Australia. Many who have written have indicated that they will respond with contributions of seed, some that were in the Wish List in the last issue of *Horticulture Northwest*. If you missed that announcement see Vol. 5, No. 2, Summer 1978, Page 32.

In the Winter issue of the journal, which you will receive by December 1st, there will be an article by Mary Kenady, Seed Exchange Director, in which she will give you all of the information necessary to participate in this new service provided by the NOHS. It must be realized, however, that for any successful venture, volunteers are needed. This is your opportunity to contribute. Mary Kenady will be having a seed exchange meeting the latter part of September at Firland Correctional Center. Please call her, 788-1800, for details.

# Plant Sale Specials

#### Rhododendrons

Jean Thomas, Issaquah, Wash.

The Rhododendron Section of the NOHS Plant Sale will be featuring, this year, two hybrids that you have been waiting for, both outstanding introductions from Peter Cox, in Scotland. Although they will be especially appealing to the rock gardener, they are so choice that they deserve a special place in every garden; an unusual addition for you or a wonderful gift for a friend.

Rhododendron 'Ptarmigan', (R. microleucum X R. leucaspis), one of the finest early flowering dwarfs, won the FCC award in 1965. It is a hardy Rhododendron, quite compact, spreading and grows to six inches in height. It has small, pure white, funnel-shaped flowers in great abundance. An early bloomer is a great joy!

A very popular and hard-to-find *Rhododendron* is *R*. 'Chikor', (*R. chryseum* X *R. ludlowii*). It can be considered a most reliable plant, literally covering itself with pale creamy yellow saucer-shaped flowers in May. It grows to about eight inches in height and twelve inches across. *R.* 'Chikor', winner of the FCC award in 1968, would be a welcome free-flowering addition to any garden.

#### Something New!

Crowea exalata (Rutaceae)
James R. LeComte, Ashburton, New Zealand

The genus Crowea, pronounced CROW-E-A, is an Australian endemic, named after J. Crowe, an English Botanist. It is closely related to Eriostemon with which it was once united, but may be readily distinguished from it by the hairy appendages or tails on the anthers. The genus contains four species, three of which are commonly in cultivation in Australia. However, Crowea exalata, F. Muell (pronounced EX-AL-A-TA, meaning not winged) is probably one of the most satisfactory small shrubs grown and is the one usually cultivated in New Zealand gardens.

It is normally a shrubby, rather rounded or dome shaped bush of 18 - 24 inches, bearing an abundance of bright rose pink flowers, three fourths of an inch across in autumn and winter, with a main flush in spring. The fact

that it is in flower for about three quarters of the year makes it a very valuable garden plant indeed.

Leaves are thin, narrow and usually linear-spathulate. The well branched little bushes are compact, with flowers all along the branches, not axillary but on the ends of branchlets which may be only a fraction of an inch long.

Crowea exalata is frost hardy here at Ashburton, New Zealand, to -10°C. (12°F.) and although suggested (in Australia) as best for cool and moist conditions, it thrives for us in summer temperatures of often over 90°F. with lcw humidity. Its greatest requirement is good drainage, without which it may suffer from collar rot. It should grow very well in Northwestern United States in a sunny position in lime free, well drained soil. If heat is extreme, light shade, when the sun is at its zenith, would be beneficial. Mulching, as for rhododendrons would also be desirable in a hot area.

A plant that opens its perfect flowers of solid waxy substance most of the months of the year, resting only in extremes of heat and cold, is one to be acquired at all costs and to be cherished.

References: Australian Plants, Sept. 1960 and Mar. 1972.

Acknowledgment: I acknowledge, with grateful thanks the assistance of Mr. W. Sykes, Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Lincoln, N.Z. in researching the material from which I drew the botanical notes contained in this article.

#### Landscaping Alternatives

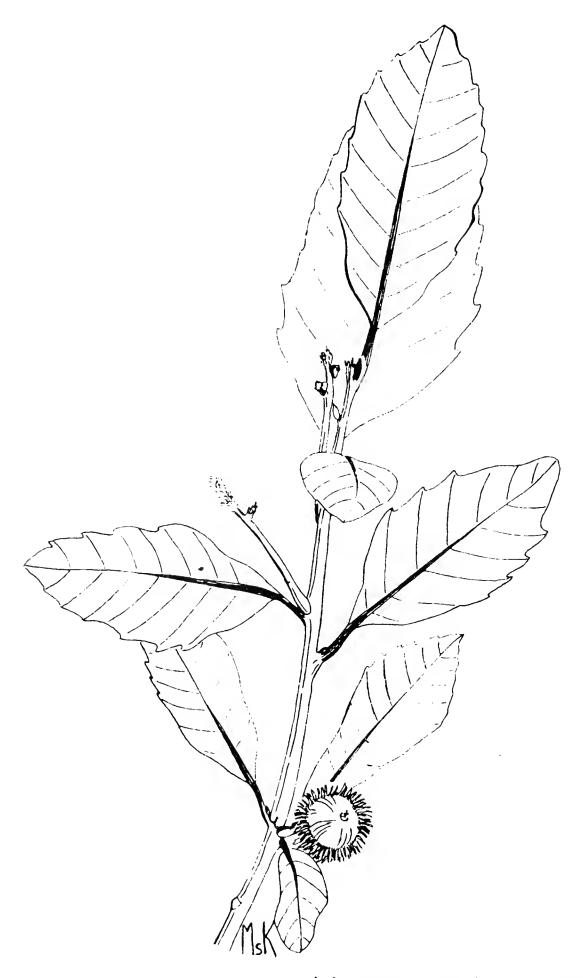
Joni Langford, Seattle, Wash.

How often we wish for an alternative to our familiar trees and shrubs such as rhododendrons, azaleas, conifers and common broad-leaved evergreens. Well known, but often overlooked are the evergreen and semi-evergreen species of *Quercus* and *Lithocarpus* which add interesting texture to the garden. They are a natural to include in our Northwest gardens where they are compatible to the rich, well-drained, acid soils here. If you do not have these soil requirements, it is well worthwhile to induce these conditions into the garden, which is an ideal growing situation in this area.

Lithocarpus densiflorus, the tanbark oak, is similar to the Quercus species, but it is quite distinctive from the tree oaks. According to references, it is an evergreen tree, up to 75 feet, native to southern Oregon and California. It has pyramidal form when young. On the new shoots is a thick pale wool which persists through the second season. L. d. var echinoides, a shrub

up to ten feet high, leaves elliptic,  $1\frac{1}{2} - 2\frac{1}{4}$  inches long, could be a good screening shrub, displaying striking new foliage of gray or tan.

Lithocarpus densiflorus form attenuato-dentatus is a mutant form of the tanbark oak. This is a rare oak-like plant found in Yuba Co., California, however one person in our area has succeeded in propagating it. We will be hearing more about this distinctive gem in future articles in the Journal.



Lithocarpus densiflora echinoides
Illustration: Mareen S. Kruckeberg

#### NEWSLETTER

#### Autumn 1978

#### A Supplement to Horticulture Northwest

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy Autumn!

Autumn is a beginning of a new year in many ways -- a new energy after the lazy days of summer, a new school year, the best start for those new plants for your garden, a new calendar for many programs, and a new year for NOHS (our annual meeting this year is November 7).

Our purpose places emphasis on basic horticultural education. Plant sales, programs, exhibits, garden tours, and study groups are all aimed toward stimulating interest in the wealth of plant material which can be grown in the Northwest and how to grow it. The best way to take advantage of all these opportunities is to become involved. The best way to become involved is to call a committee chairman or board member.

Committee chairmen are board members; it is the board who makes policy decisions and approves plans. But, it is the committees which do the exciting planning, bring up new ideas, and work out details of each project. Especially as our new year starts each chairman is looking for new members for their committee. Wouldn't you like to be a part. Or if committee work doesn't appeal, there are many opportunities to help on plant sales, the Quarterly, garden tours, etc. Typing, drawing, writing, cashiering, setting up the sales, mailing, telephoning, running errands, potting plants are among the many things to be done; all involve meeting and working with interesting people. Would you like to learn more about a specific horticultural aspect by joing a study group? In addition to the now active ones, new ones will be set up as interest is known; the new seed exchange is such an example.

Our activities and committees are open to all members. I urge you to call me or any board member and make your interests known.

Ann Herron

8000

#### ANNUAL MEETING, A VERY SPECIAL SPEAKER

The annual dinner meeting of the <u>NOHS</u> will be on November 7th at the University Tower Hotel. Save the date! The speaker will be Ralph N. Nansen, manager of the Space Solar Power Systems for Boeing. His topic will be "Solar Power Satellites and the U.S. Energy Problem" which should be of great interest to all. Call Dana Rottler, chairman, at 524-2446 for reservations.

#### SEATTLE CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY

#### President - Ann Richardson

CHRYSANTHEMUMS, Queen of autumn flowers, will be featured at the 47th Annual Flower show sponsored by the Seattle Chrysanthemum Society on October 28 and 29, 1978, at the Scottish Rite Temple, Seattle.

Admission is free. Hours are Saturday, 2 P.M. to 8 P.M. Sunday, 10:30 A.M. to 6 P.M.

In Keeping with the theme--"ODYSSEY - The Land of the Ancients and the Flower of the Ages" the show coordinators, Harold Maxwell and Elinor Zappalo invite all flower lovers to this exciting event which will feature thousands of competitive cut-blooms; Competitive designs in flower arrangement; Oriental Schools of Flower Arranging, Burien Artists' Gallery displays and Rock Garden Lapidary exhibits. Staging will reflect the theme.

On Sunday afternoon at 2 P.M. a special program will feature Marvin Black presenting a demonstration of Floral Art. On the hour during the show, fresh floral bouquets of mums will be given away. Tea and refreshments at 2 P.M. each day.

Elinor Zappalo, 255-8998

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notify Helen Lea, Membership Chairman, of any change of name, address or phone number. This can be done by mail, 1620 - 40th Ave. East, #1107, Seattle, WA 98112, or by phone at 329-0770. It costs the NOHS 25¢ per item returned, money we would all rather spend on projects within the Arboretum program.



#### Membership Application

#### NORTHWEST ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Purpose:
Shall be to further horticultural development and maintenance of the
University of Washington Arboreta and plant file situated therein.

Membership activities encompess:

Lecture Series, Study Groups, Annual Fall Plant Sale, Tours of gardens of horticultural interest, Quarterly Horticultural Journal.

(Please fill in form as you wish information to appear in yearbook)  Mr	
Name	(First Name)
Address	Phone
City & State	Zip
New Member (date)	Or Renewal (date)
	come due January, May and September, est to date of Membership Application.)
PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society	TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP:  Life \$500.00
MAILING ADDRESS: University of Washington Arboreta Seattle, Washington 98195	Sponsoring       \$100.00 & \$500.00         Supporting       \$ 50.00         Contributing       \$ 25.00         Sustaining       \$ 10.00
TELEPHONE: 543-8800	Annual

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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323-1210 98112	PLUNKETT, Ms. Delrdre 633 - 36th Ave. E., Seattle	

# COMING GARDEN EVENTS

			Sept. 14
Displays at 10:30 A.M., lecture at 11 A.M.	Pacific Science Center, Eames Theater.	Stephen Doonan and Phillip Pearson.	NOHS free lecture, "All About Seeds" by

- Sept. 26 Explorers' Walk. Sponsored by the Arboretum Foundation. Meet at the Foundation office parking lot, 10 A.M.
- Sept. 28 NOHS Fall Plant Sale, Bellevue Square. & 29 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.
- Oct. 4 Arboretum Foundation Fall Bulb Sale. & 5 Arboretum office parking lot, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.
- Oct. 12 NOHS free lecture, "Bulbs, Native and Dutch" by Jeanne Gardner and Jane Rogers. Pacific Science Center, Eames Theater. Displays at 10:30 A.M., lecture at 11 A.M.
- Oct. 14 Puget Sound Mycological Society annual mushroom exhibit, Pacific Science Center, Eames Theater. 12 noon to 8 P.M. Saturday, 11 A.M. to 7 P.M. Sunday.
- Oct. 24 Explorers' Walk. Sponsored by the Arboretum Foundation. Meet at the Foundation office parking lot, 10 A.M.

- Oct. 27, Evergreen Chrysanthemum Association 28 & 29 show specializing in large exhibition blooms. Snoqualmie Room, Seattle Center.
- Nov. 9

  NOHS free lecture, "Soil, Your Plants'
  Best Friend" by Dr. Dale Cole. Pacific
  Science Center, Eames Theater. Displays
  at 10:30 A.M., lecture at 11 A.M.
- Nov. 28 Explorers' Walk. Sponsored by the Arboretum Foundation. Meet at the Foundation office parking lot, 10 A.M.

Quercus cerris, turkey oak, from southern Europe and western Asia, is a large deciduous tree up to 90 feet. It is a broadly pyramidal tree of fine texture. The leaves range from two to four inches, retaining their dark green color to late fall. Because it is one of the faster growing oaks, it is an excellent street tree.

Quercus michauxii, swamp chestnut oak, is an east coast and Mississippi Basin native that survives in moist soils. It is a large deciduous tree with a round-topped, dense head and bright green toothed leaves, four to seven inches long, grayish tomentose beneath. Rare in cultivation, though introduced in the 17th century.

Quercus phyllreoides eventually grows into a large evergreen shrub of rounded habit, more rounded leathery leaves. This oak can be distinguished from the others by the bright-green, nearly glabrous surface of its leaves, combined with the absence of spine-tipped teeth. Use as a background screen or barrier shrub along with large rhododendrons and woodland groundcover.

Quercus sadleriana, native to the mountains of southwest Oregon and northern California, forms an evergreen thicket usually under six feet high. It is a most attractive shrub with mature leaves a glossy rich green above and paler beneath, with prominent veins. The fruits are sessile, ripening the first year; acorns approximately one inch long. This species is more allied to Old World Species, such as Q. pontica and Q. glandulifera than it is to any other American oak, which makes it of considerable botanical interest.

All of these oaks offer an opportunity to experiment with a new choice in your graden. When plant material is of small size, we recommend they be potted in a large container, in a mixture of rich, well-drained, acid soil, in order that they receive the special attention of watering etc. required when first transplanted.

Look for our choice selections in the Trees and Shrubs Department of the fall N.O.H.S. plant sale, September 28th and 29th.

#### Malaysian Rhododendrons

Harold Greer, Greer Gardens Eugene, Oregon

We are very excited about this group of plants. Just think, a rhododendron growing and blooming in your home, something I never dreamed possible!

Malaysian rhododendrons are tropical plants native mainly to New Guinea and Borneo. Malaysians often grow as epiphytes (a plant living upon another plant but not parasitic), hence their need for light airy soil. They can't tolerate frost and do best at temperatures over 45°F. (8°C). In their native equatorial habitat the relatively constant day lengths and temperature

ranges cause the plants to grow year round. Their flowering is regulated by stress and dryness more than by season. They flower after a period of dryness.

We suggest growing them as containerized plants kept outside on the patio in summer. It is best to give good light with some shade. In the later summer allow them to become quite dry, to the point of showing slight wilting. Then water thoroughly and allow them to dry out again before the next watering. During this period they will set buds.

Before the first frost bring them indoors. Before long they will start to flower. Just think how nice it will be to have a rhododendron flowering when there is little else in bloom. While they are indoors keep them in a well lit location, such as a north or east window. Water them thoroughly but again allow them to become fairly dry between waterings. Fertilize them sparingly with a mild fertilizer, a fish base fertilizer is good. Fertilize them several times during the spring and early summer, using a diluted concentration. Too frequent ferilization can cause foliage burn. Occasional pinching to maintain shape is advisable.

Plant your new rhododendron houseplant in a mixture of 1/3 coarse orchid bark, 1/3 peat moss and 1/3 perlite; this gives the well drained light planting mixture they really like.

Remember, they often flower more than once a year and can flower at any time. If you follow the above procedures the heaviest flowering will be during fall and early winter.

Javanicum - Yellow to orange-red flowers are fleshy textured. Good shiny foliage.

Zoelleri - Shades of yellow, orange and salmon. Sweetly scented.

and

Unnamed species introduced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Look for them in the Fall N.O.H.S. Plant Sale Collectors Corner - supply limited.

#### Prunus 'Hally Jolivette'

Jane Blogg Seattle, Washington

The flowering cherries rarely occupy a major position in a bonsai collection, because the blooming period, when they are most enjoyed, is so brief. Later, the size of the leaf is generally too large and out of proportion for good bonsai.

One cultivar, 'Hally Jolivette', is becoming increasingly popular in the Northwest, west of the Cascade Mountains. It is a hybrid propagated at the

Arnold Arboretum. The parents are *Prunus subhirtella* crossed with *P. yedoensis* and crossed back on *subhirtella*.

In the mild climate of the Northwest, 'Hally Jolivette' begins flowering in late January and continues until mid-March. Less one be misled into thinking peak bloom is sustained, let me say that it commences with a few scattered, small, soft pink blossoms, reaches a peak of profuse bloom, and then tapers off as the leaves begin to emerge. A great plus factor of this cherry is that the leaves never become overly large in the after-flowering season.

Young trees in the 12- to 15-inch size respond quickly to pruning and shaping. The trunk takes on the aspects of a mature tree in two to three years. Side shoots are prolific, showing the P. subhirtella habit. Unnecessary ones can be cut off, while others can be retained for the development of the shape of the tree.

'Hally Jolivette' is typical of the flowering cherries in rapid and profuse root growth. Young bonsai should be repotted each year. When growth is somewhat stabilized, repotting is necessary only when the roots become crowded in the container. Root-pruning should be done in the spring before the leaves have developed.

Since flowering cherries dislike too much water, the potting soil should be porous enough for rapid drainage. Placement in the garden should be such that water cannot accumulate either from a sprinkling system or overhead drip.

Each individual has his own theory of fertilizing. I use a weak solution of "Rapid-gro", Hyponex", or Miller's "Booster" from spring until midsummer and then "Bloom" or any other 0-10-10 solution until late August or early September.

The normal habit of growth is multitrunk and low. At times, flowering cherries have been found as single-trunk young trees. This is a matter of propagation. If left to normal growth, they will become multitrunk.

Here is a flowering cherry which surpasses others in performance as a bonsai subject and is a constant source of pleasure, since it responds to the care given it. Hopefully, it will soon become available in greater quantity.

Reprinted from <u>Bonsai</u> the Journal of the American Bonsai Society, Spring 1972.

You will find *Prunus* 'Hally Jolivette' in the NOHS Fall Sale - Bonsai Department.

### **Book Review**

JAPANESE MAPLES, by J. D. Vertrees

Timber Press, Forest Grove, Oregon, (1978); pp. 178, 200 color illustrations. Price \$39.50

This long-awaited work on these most ornamental small trees for gardens in all temperate climates will bring considerable pleasure, much essential information and an exceptional collection of color photos to its purchasers. Its purposes as stated by the author in his <u>Introduction</u> are threefold. Firstly, to provide a comprehensive source of information, with the color photographs to aid in identification; secondly, to clarify some of the confused nomenclature; and thirdly, to provide guidance in propagation and cultivation. In all of these aims he has certainly succeeded and in so doing given us as complete a horticultural survey of Japanese maples as is presently possible.

A great deal of research over many years has obviously been required to assemble both the information and the plants now being propagated in Oregon and elsewhere. Acknowledgements are made to persons not only in the U.S.A. but also in Japan, particularly to Mr. Hideo Suzuki who has written the Foreword, in Holland to Mr. D. M. van Gelderen and in England to Messrs.

J. G. S. Harris and H. G. Hillier. As a result of these combined talents and efforts many forms of Japanese maples are now becoming available in this country which were not grown here previously, while others have been correctly identified, a benefit especially to the nursery trade but also to all gardeners who grow and enjoy them.

The book is subdivided into five chapters, dealing respectively with Character and History, Taxonomy and Nomenclature, Culture, Propagation, and The Cultivars. While the first four are covered in forty of the quarto sized pages, the last requires more than one hundred, having over 200 color photos and including cultivars of other Japanese species of Acer such as A. japonicum and A. mono. In this chapter Mr. Vertrees has separated the three principal botanical varieties of Acer palmatum, namely Palmatum, Amoenum and Matsumurae, and listed the cultivars assigned to each on pages 16-17; the distinctions between these varieties will be found on page 46. For horticultural purposes he has subdivided the cultivars into seven groups of which Palmate is the largest with about fifty named forms; others include Dissectum, Linearilobum, Dwarf, and Variegated. These cultivars in each group are then listed alphabetically and described, especially emphasizing their foliage characters and habit of growth. Most of them are illustrated by the author's own color photos, generally by close-ups of the foliage but sometimes by pictures of the whole plant in summer or fall coloring. As a rule these are of very high quality, reproduced on a heavy glossy paper, but some are a little too dark or too small to give a satisfactory result, particularly the purple-leaved types on a dark background. Nevertheless they provide the best means to date of identifying the numerous garden forms and as such will be most helpful to growers, both amateur and professional. They vary in size from 2½ by 3½ inches to a full page, either 6 by 9 inches or even up to 8 by 12 inches. These larger sizes are beautiful plant portraits and demonstrate the skill of the photographer as well as the habit or foliage color of the plant; e.g. that of 'Red Pygmy' facing page 1.

Under his chapter heading <u>Character and History</u> the author describes the variation to be found within this group and their seasonal value and uses at different times of the year. Their history is carried back to the 17th century in Japan; by the year 1710 36 forms were already recognized and named, and in less than a quarter century the number had risen to 64; by 1882 between 200 and 250 kinds were being grown in Japan and elsewhere. Books describing them were published in both the 18th and 19th centuries. Plants were introduced to England in 1820.

Taxonomy lists all the species of Acer found wild in Japan as well as some from China and Korea, arranged alphabetically by their Series, with names of authors and dates of publication. Both A. palmatum (1783) and A. japonicum (1784) were first described by C. P. Thunberg. The chapter on Nomenclature points out how confusion in names has arisen when Japanese cultivars were first brought to Europe, later to the United States, by transliteration from the Japanese, mis-spellings, the giving of new names and other means. It is small wonder that some have several names and others are wrongly spelled.

Culture is a practical chapter covering soil conditions, planting, pruning, fertilizing, growing in containers, pests and diseases. Nine pages are devoted to a detailed discussion of all methods of <u>Propagation</u>, but particularly by raising from seeds and grafting. This is first-hand information of real value both to amateurs and professionals, whether propagating only a few for home gardens or by the thousand for the nursery trade.

The book concludes with a set of useful Appendices: - Japanese Names and their Meanings; Cultivar Names not Elsewhere Described; Guide to Use and Character, "to assist in the selection of plants for individual situations", listing more than 200 cultivars under eight different headings; an extensive Bibliography filling 2½ pages, and finally a comprehensive Index.

In summary, Mr. Vertrees has given us the fullest possible information on Japanese Maples in a very attractive form. It is hoped that despite its somewhat high price it will be widely purchased and thoroughly read and digested, especially by nurserymen dealing in these plants, so that the presently confused nomenclature may be clarified and the plants properly identified and named. We are all indebted to him for this long and thorough study, as well as for making many rare or new forms more generally available.

B. O. Mulligan

#### RHODODENDRON STUDY GROUP REPORT

#### Marjorie Baird

Early this spring, before the tours started at the Rhododendron Species Foundation garden, we spent some time raking and cleaning up the North American area. The ensuing blooming season resulted in the removal of some

inferior or misnamed plants. Gary VanWinkle (and Co.), under Dorothy Hussey's watchful eye, placed some large rocks around our "marshy-pond" and later we arranged some smaller rocks to form a stream-bed running down to the lower road. Luckily, the rocks were all on the premises!

The remainder of the generous N.O.H.S. contribution, after payment of Gary's fee, will be used for buying more companion plants to put in this fall.

As you may know, Jack Hirsch has joined Gary's nursery and landscaping operation and we miss him very much. However, Steve Witcher is handling the garden maintenance department very capably.

Janet Dabney, Renee Hill, and I transplanted 289 small plants of Pachystima canbyi (cuttings we rooted from Helen O'Brube) into the Foundation nursery. We also put in a few cuttings of P. myrsinites, and Pieris floribunda. One of the faithful Foundation workers donated a lovely large Rhododendron vaseyi and Mareen Kruckeberg, a healthy Pieris floribunda.

Our propagating "Bee", held in conjunction with the Yarrow Garden Club, found us outnumbered 4 to 10 not counting myself and 2 guests! This was the day, July 26th, of the longest almost-continuous thunderstorm I can remember. However, a group of rugged souls braved the elements while we collected cuttings from 21 different plants, but were finally cut short by the downpours! Reports from last year's cutting parties have been good; the main problem being loss of name tags. We hope the 1979 and '80 plant sales will benefit from these "bees".

# Berry Garden Progress Report

Howard Mason, President Berry Botanic Garden

The Friends of the Rae Selling Berry Botanic Garden was organized in April, 1977. By March of 1978, the Friends was able to purchase the entire parcel of land with Mrs. Berry's home as headquarters. The fund-raising for this was led by Patty Wessinger, whose energy and acumen was largely responsible for the success of the campaign, but a number of community leaders in Oregon and elsewhere, members of the Portland Garden Club, and the Nature Conservancy, all gave us essential support and guidance.

Portland seems to be among the first cities to save a distinguished garden resource through the intervention of private citizens and the business community. The Garden has been saved, but the fund-raising is still proceed-

ing in order to obtain an endowment fund which, while not providing the costs of bringing this specialized botanical garden to a high level of interest and utility, will give us a basic income sufficient to assure the continuation of the Garden whatever may come. Contributions from the gardening community of Seattle and surroundings will be very helpful and welcome to us, and should be sent to the Friends of the Berry Garden, P.O. Box 8585, Portland, Oregon 97207.

After the Garden was acquired, the Board of Directors of the Friends turned toward a fascinating and difficult challenge: converting a fine private garden into a gem of a small, specialized, botanic garden. We have a superb Advisory Council, whose members have already been invaluable in helping us attack problems that all botanic gardens face: long-range planning, cataloging the existing collection, developing accession procedures, labeling systems and plant records, and establishing procedures for policy-making and administration. Brian Mulligan, Roy Davidson, and Dr. Roy Taylor from your general area are among our Advisors.

Edward McCrae, hybridizer and production manager of the Oregon Bulb Farms, is Director of the Garden. He brings a wealth of experience from the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh, Scotland, where he was in charge of plant propagation and greenhouse management. His definitive articles on lilies are particularly well known.

Jack Poff, who worked for years under Mrs. Berry's guidance, is an essential and integral part of the Garden's international reputation. Mr. Poff is a skilled and sensitive plantsman. Today he is the only living person with a comprehensive working knowledge of Mrs. Berry's plant collection. He has made a long-term commitment to help preserve and develop the Berry plant heritage and to educate interns and future curators to carry on the work in the specialties of the Garden. He lives in the Berry House as a resident gardener/curator.

What else is happening? The Garden is being cataloged and labeled -- a big and difficult job, and plans are being made to build a reference herbarium, a good working library, and propagation beds, frames, lath house, and greenhouse. The latter are particularly important to the work of the Garden, the research of which will be directed toward study of the propagation of Northwest alpines and rare and endangered plant species. A consortium of universities is being organized by Professors Lippert and Brehm to make the resources of the garden available for educational and research purposes. We are planning plant sales of Berry Garden materials, propagated for the purpose by Edsal Wood, to be held in the fall and spring. These sales will include rarities. And a strong effort is being made to increase membership in the Friends of the Rae Selling Berry Garden.

The Garden is now closed while it is being brought up to an exhibition standard. This is a large job, but we hope to have it open to visitors next spring. Because of the unusual location of the Garden in a residential area, the number of visitors must be restricted. It is our intention to open the Garden primarily to members of the Friends organization and to interested horticulturists on an appointment basis; experienced docents will serve as guides. We look forward to the visits of our Northwest neighbors.

# Tidbits by Ladybug \_\_\_\_

Dear Ms. Bug:

The article in the Summer issue of the Journal about earthworms set me a-musing with the resulting Two Bits worth.

Albeit ... "It is the early bird who gets the worm." On the other hand ... It is alimentary what happens to the early worm.

Horticordially, Cock Robin



You don't need to throw out broken tools; if they cannot be repairedthere are often alternate uses for them. One of the most used tools in my garden is a square hoe with no handle. It is invaluable for separating stacked pots, mixing soils, scraping out flat areas, and scooping dirt to fill pots.

Ann Herron



Seed sowing: One of our members reports success with the following method: Peat plugs sold at your garden store are placed in short, clear plastic glasses readily available at your grocery store. Allow the plug in each glass to absorb its maximum of water. Sow seed on the peat, cover with plastic, fastened with a rubber band. Label by writing with indelible ink and date. Because of proper light and temperature, a kitchen counter is an excellent place to keep them. When germination takes place move them to more light, such as a window sill that receives no direct sunlight.



The charming and rare little Rhododendron ludlowii is a joy to any gardener who is fortunate enough to have it and grow it sufficiently well to be able to enjoy its enormous yellow flowers. It is a natural tendency to want it to set seed in order to propagate it and share it with others. However, if allowed to set seed, in this garden at least, those branches with ripening seed capsules die off completely.

When you prune your Myrica californica keep in mind one habit of this most desirable ornamental. If you cut back a branch, it will send out many new little branches from immediately below the cut.



Does it seem to you that the fir needles have been excessively bothersome this year, especially to potted plants, troughs and other containers on the patio and elsewhere? Those that are top-dressed with gravel or rock are a chore to tidy up. Try removing the top dressing, needles and all, place in a pan and fill to the top with water. The needles and other debris will float to the top; pour off, repeat the process several times, stirring the rock around to dislodge stubborn particles. When water is clear, drain and replace the top dressing onto your containers.



Quercus, Lithocarpus, Chrysolepis or any other tree or shrub that quickly forms a long taproot should not be moved once planted out in the garden. Learn all you can about your plant, eventual height, width, sun, soil and plant in a spot that will be permanent. Since any oaks, etc. you might purchase will be relatively small, you can avoid the bare look by planting shrubs and ground covers that can be easily moved when the oak approaches its mature growth.

Sow seed generously

One for the rook, one for the crow, One to die and one to grow.



#### --continued from page 40

you've had.) Old standbys such as the white *I. douglasiana* 'Agnes James', pale yellow hybrid 'Golden Nymph', striped white and violet *I. tenax* 'Valley Banner', violet-eyed 'Amiguita' and 'Ami Royal', and lavender or yellow *I. tenax* itself (Washington's only member of this group) should present no problem. These and others are available from dealers in Washington and Oregon for fall delivery.

Plants are also easily raised from seed and will bloom the second or third year. Seeds may be had from dealers in wildflower seeds, or through seed exchanges open to members of the American Rock Garden Society, the American Iris Society, etc. A specialty group within the American Iris Society - the Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises - has been organized to encourage the cultivation and further the development of improved varieties for gardens not only in the Pacific Coast states where they grow easily but also in other parts of the United States where they really are difficult.



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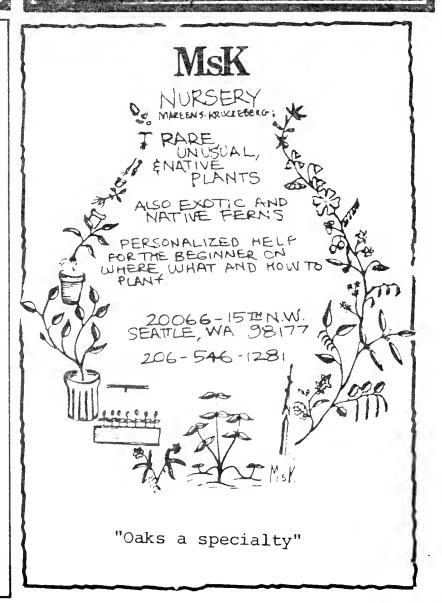
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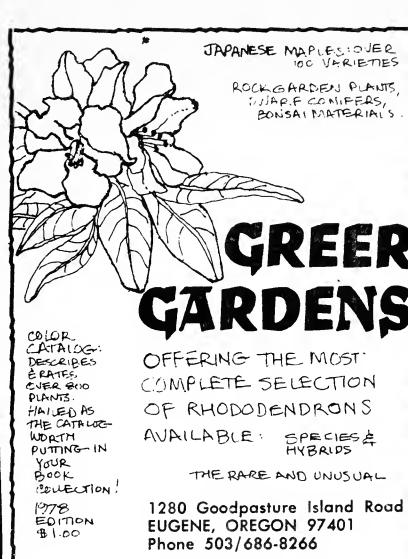
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